

Claims:

1. A flashlight comprising:
 - a single lamp;
 - a power storage element;
 - a single switch operable to be incremented through a sequence of states;
 - the switch being operable to change state in response to an application and release of pressure;
 - a first one of the states comprising operating the lamp at a first brightness; and
 - a second one of the states comprising operating the lamp at a different brightness.
2. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the switch includes an off state in addition to at least two different brightness states.
3. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the flashlight includes an elongated body and wherein the switch is located at an intermediate portion of the body away from the ends of the body.
4. The flashlight of claim 1 including a controller operable to deliver different selected power levels to the lamp, and having a plurality of inputs, the switch having a plurality of outputs connected to the respective controller inputs.
5. The flashlight of claim 4 wherein the switch is operable to make a connection between an input from the control module and a selected one of the outputs.
6. The flashlight of claim 4 wherein the power storage element has opposed electrodes each connected to the controller, and wherein the lamp has opposed electrodes each connected to the controller.
7. The flashlight of claim 4 wherein all contacts of the switch are connected directly to the controller, such that the switch does not intervene between the lamp and the power source.

8. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the switch includes an axially-movable element operable by a user's finger, and an internal rotatable element having a conductive contact and operable in response to an axial movement of the axially movable-element to rotate a fraction of a turn.
9. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the switch is connected to a network of resistors, and operates to include a selected one of the resistors in a circuit including the lamp and the power source.
10. The flashlight of claim 1 wherein the lamp is an LED operable to generate a light output based on the power input, with a consistent color of light output.
11. The flashlight of claim 1 including a reflector having an optical axis, and wherein the single lamp is positioned on the optical axis.
12. A flashlight comprising:
 - a single lamp;
 - a power storage element;
 - a switch having an electrical input contact and a plurality of electrical output contacts;
 - the switch being operable to be incremented through a sequence of states, each increment occurring in response to an application and release of pressure;
 - each of the states having an electrical connection made between the input contact and a respective one of the output contacts; and
 - a different amount of power being delivered to the lamp in each of the switch states.
13. The flashlight of claim 12 wherein the switch includes an off state in addition to at least two different brightness states.
14. The flashlight of claim 12 wherein the switch is the only switch on the flashlight.
15. The flashlight of claim 12 including a controller connected to the lamp, to the power storage element, and to each of the contacts of the switch.

16. The flashlight of claim 15 wherein all contacts of the switch are connected directly to the controller, such that the switch does not intervene between the lamp and the power source.
17. The flashlight of claim 12 wherein the switch includes an axially-movable element operable by a user's finger, and an internal rotatable element having a conductive contact and operable in response to an axial movement of the axially movable-element to rotate a fraction of a turn.
18. The flashlight of claim 12 wherein the switch is connected to a network of resistors, and operates to include a selected one of the resistors in a circuit including the lamp and the power source.
19. The flashlight of claim 12 wherein the lamp is an LED operable to generate a light output based on the power input, with a consistent color of light output.
20. The flashlight of claim 12 including a reflector having an optical axis, and wherein the single lamp is positioned on the optical axis.